

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/661,540	ALLEN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Justin T. Darrow	2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment and formal drawings filed 11/16/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8, 10, 11, 13-16, 18-22, and 24-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 16 November 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other ____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 14-16, 19-22, and 26 have been amended and claims 9, 12, 17, and 23 have been cancelled in an amendment filed 11/16/2004. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-16, 18-22, and 24-26 have been examined.

Docketing

2. This application has been docketed to Primary Examiner Justin T. Darrow in Group Art Unit 2132 in Technology Center 2100.

Drawings

3. The drawings were received on 11/16/2004. These drawings are approved.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13-16, 18-22, and 24-26 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1; 2 and 3; 6, 7, and 10; 11 and 13; 16 and 18; 22, 24, and 25; and 26 are drawn to a computer system for controlling unauthorized use of software, a method of reading encoded data from a removable media device, four methods of preventing unauthorized access to encoded content, and a computer system preventing unauthorized access to encoded content, respectively. The closest prior art, Nardone et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,175,925 B1, discloses a similar computer system. However, they neither teach nor suggest a signature in BIOS circuitry. This distinct

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limitation incorporated into independent claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 16, 22, and 26 renders claims 1; 2 and 3; 6, 7, and 10; 11 and 13; 16 and 18; 22, 24, and 25; and 26, respectively, allowable.

Claims 4 and 5 are drawn to methods of reading encoded data from a removable media device in a computer system. The closest prior art, Nardone et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,175,925 B1, discloses a similar computer system. However, they neither show nor motivate determining whether the first sector on removable media is encoded if a system is authorized to decode encoded data. This particular step incorporated into independent claims 4 and 5 renders claims 4; and 5, respectively, allowable.

Claim 8 and 19 are drawn to two methods of preventing unauthorized access to encoded content stored on removable media. The closest prior art, Nardone et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,175,925 B1, discloses a similar computer system. However, they describe nor render obvious adding at least one modular driver between the operating system and the removable media reader. This particular limitation incorporated into independent claims 8 and 19 renders claims 8 and 19, respectively, allowable.

Claim 14 and 20 are drawn to a method of preventing unauthorized access to encoded content stored on removable media. The closest prior art, Nardone et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,175,925 B1, discloses a similar computer system. However, they describe nor render obvious trapping insert status requests of the removable media reader from the operating system to the device driver of the removable media reader. This particular feature incorporated into independent claim 14 and 20 renders claims 14 and 20, respectively, allowable.

Claim 15 and 21 drawn to two methods of preventing unauthorized access to encoded content stored on removable media. The closest prior art, Nardone et al., U.S. Patent No.

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6,175,925 B1, discloses a similar computer system. However, they describe nor render obvious trapping read requests of the removable media reader from the operating system to the device driver of the removable media reader. This particular feature incorporated into independent claims 15 and 21 renders claims 15 and 21, respectively, allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Telephone Inquiry Contacts

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Justin T. Darrow whose telephone number is (571) 272-3801, and whose electronic mail address is justin.darrow@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barrón, Jr., can be reached at (571) 272-3799.

The fax number for Formal or Official faxes to Technology Center 2100 is (703) 872-9306. In order for a formal paper transmitted by fax to be entered into the application file, the paper and/or fax cover sheet must be signed by a representative for the applicant. Faxed formal papers for application file entry, such as amendments adding claims, extensions of time, and statutory disclaimers for which fees must be charged before entry, must be transmitted with an authorization to charge a deposit account to cover such fees. It is also recommended that the


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cover sheet for the fax of a formal paper have printed **“OFFICIAL FAX”**. Formal papers transmitted by fax usually require three business days for entry into the application file and consideration by the examiner. Formal or Official faxes including amendments after final rejection (37 CFR 1.116) should be submitted to (703) 872-9306 for expedited entry into the application file. It is further recommended that the cover sheet for the fax containing an amendment after final rejection have printed not only **“OFFICIAL FAX”** but also **“AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL”**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

April 18, 2005


JUSTIN T. DARROW
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100